

REENTRY UNIT

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**We may encounter
many defeats but we
must not be defeated.**

Maya Angelou

MRP FLASH

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PATCH

Parents and Their Children

PATCH (Parents and Their Children) is a not for profit organization that operates within the walls of Chillicothe Correctional Center (CCC). PATCH is dedicated to helping children and incarcerated mothers *keep the connection* during periods of separation due to incarceration by providing services to strengthen family relationships.

PATCH provides parent education for offender mothers and an ongoing offender support group. PATCH coordinates and supervises more private visits for offender mothers and their children in PATCH visiting rooms. If needed, transportation is provided for children from their homes to Chillicothe for PATCH visits. Close to 60 volunteers participate as visit supervisors or drivers for PATCH.



Frequent visits with their mothers in PATCH visiting rooms have been shown to help relieve the emotional trauma of having a parent in prison for children and reduce behavior problems and academic failure at school. In addition, maintaining contact and rebuilding trust with children and caregivers helps the offender mother.

It is linked to lower recidivism rates and to more successful reentry into society.

PATCH has worked with the cooperation and support of the DOC and CCC for 30 years. The program began with the name, Prison PATCH, in 1984 at Renz Correctional Center near Jefferson City. In 1986, when DOC moved the female offenders to CCC, Prison PATCH followed.

For more information:
<http://www.chillicothepatch.org>
Barb Burton, Director
800-284-0145
director@chillicothepatch.org.

Find MRP on the web at www.doc.mo.gov

Lights - Camera - Action

Securing full-time employment is a key factor impacting recidivism. The Video Resume Project is designed to assist and equip educationally and vocationally trained offenders in overcoming employability barriers upon reentry to society. The purpose of Video Resumes is to provide ex-offenders with a creative tool useful in fostering dialogue with a potential employer about work skills and

abilities. Algoa Correctional Center (ACC) was the pilot for the program eighteen months ago. The program has now been expanded to include the Farmington Correctional Center (FCC). FCC has incorporated innovative ideas and concepts which have enhanced the production and quality of the videos. We want to credit ACC and FCC for working hard to produce useful tools in assisting offenders in successful reentry.

If your institution is interested in starting a video resume program, please contact Ken Chapman with questions or to make an appointment for a presentation.



CoFFE! to Wake you Up

CoFFE!, which stands for the “Cooperative of Felon-Friendly Employers”, is preparing to unveil an employer database designed to assist Missouri offenders in securing employment upon release from incarceration. With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, training on how to utilize CoFFE! will begin for Division of Adult Institution and Probation & Parole personnel. The Next Step, Inc. (the developer of the CoFFE! database) has contracted with MODOC to provide every interested offender with three job leads upon release from incarceration. Division of Adult Institution staff will be responsible for enrolling eligible offenders prior to release. Once the offender is released, Probation and Parole staff will distribute job leads and report offender employment, when successful. We are pleased to announce that the DOC Training Academy is currently developing a DOCOTA module to train all employees on specific duties as it relates to their position. We will provide more information as the training module is completed. Please be attentive to emails as they are distributed to staff regarding training dates.

Advanced Motivational Interviewing Coming to Missouri



David Nelson, Reentry Training Manager

If you've had someone at your worksite audio recording an interview with an offender, and wondered 'What's Up?': it's all in preparation for an Advanced Motivational Interviewing training being taught in August at the Training Academy.

The Division of Adult Institutions and Probation & Parole are collaborating on a special project to train a select group of case managers and probation and parole officers with an advanced skill set in MI. The Department's MRP Leadership Team identified a need to take us to the next level in our MI abilities. The team desired to bring someone in who, while reinforcing the foundation we have built in offender interaction, could also help to magnify our efforts and the results we have been seeing in case management. We were pleased to be able to work with MI consultant, Jason Anderson, and bring him to the Academy for this training.

Mr. Anderson, Director of the Itasca County (Minnesota) Probation Department, is the former Evidence Based Programs Administrator for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. At Missouri's request, Mr. Anderson put together a quality assurance and coaching proposal that includes two days of Advanced MI training in sessions that will be offered in August. Attendees at the program were selected by the divisions and notified earlier this month.

Their notification to attend this training included a pre-homework assignment of audio recording an interview session with an offender. This recording is to be brought to class with them, where it will be reviewed to determine their application of the MI style. The pre-course assignment also came with a department-approved waiver for the offender to sign.

With the successful completion of this two-day course, our staff will have an increased level of MI skills, and we will have enabled attendees to return to the worksite as MI resources that will benefit everyone.

Missouri Veterans Commission

The following information was obtained from the Missouri Veterans Commission website.

The Missouri Veterans Commission is a state agency established by Missouri Statute to aid all Veterans, their dependents, and legal representatives by providing information regarding the rights of Veterans and their dependents and to assist Veterans accessing their available benefits through State and Federal Government.

A Veteran who is incarcerated may not be aware of the services and programs that the VA and the Missouri Veterans Commission can provide or coordinate prior to and after leaving prison. The Incarcerated Veterans Re-Entry Program (IVREP) assists incarcerated Veterans and their families with information and assistance on VA benefits, transitioning back into the community, and works with incarcerated Veterans to reduce the number of VA overpayments while incarcerated.

The Incarcerated Veterans Re-Entry Coordinator serves as a general information resource station, gives available resources in the area a Veteran plans to reside in, offers free services for assistance with VA claims such as submitting claims, appealing claims, assisting with pensions and providing other assistance that Veterans may need. The Coordinator works with DOC staff in getting benefit information to incarcerated Veterans. Missouri's Re-entry Coordinator is Bill Fairbairn, Bill.Fairbairn@mvc.dps.mo.gov. Bill plans to visit all of the institutions and is willing to serve as a resource contact for Probation and Parole officers. He can be contacted for information about scheduling site visits.

Up-Coming Events

8/17 Real Voices, Real Choices

8/19 Conference

Tan-Tar-A Resort

Contact: 1-800-364-9687 or

consumerconference@dmh.mo.gov

or visit www.dmh.mo.gov for more information.

9/4 SMART Reentry Conference “Putting the Pieces of Re-Entry Together”

Farmington Centene Center

Contact: Nancy Bonacker, D-12 District Administrator at (573) 218-5006, Ext 254

nancy.bonacker@doc.mo.gov

9/12 Reentry Conference

Strengthening Families and Building Stronger Communities

University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg

Contact: Nick Cox, POII at (660) 543-7920 Ext. 241

nick.cox@doc.mo.gov

2014 Missouri Reentry Conference

Dates: November 19-21, 2014

The Lodge of the Four Seasons

Lake Ozark, MO

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM AT WERDCC

The Restorative Justice Program at WERDCC provides many ways for offenders to give back to victims of crime and the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

Sewing, crocheting, drawing and gardening are offered to those willing to participate. Once a week, offenders are allowed to check out pre-cut and packaged quilt kits, flash cards, or crochet tools and yarn. The kits can then be constructed in the offender's room, with a 30 day limit for the project to be returned. Once the project is returned, the offender receives RJ hours for their labor. The items are then donated to area shelters, hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

During the growing season, offenders can volunteer in the garden. The produce is donated to the local food banks, senior centers and churches.

In 2013, WERDCC offenders volunteered 46,704 hours. 4,242 items were delivered to those in need, with 63 different agencies and individuals benefiting. 3,833 pounds of produce were presented to local agencies requesting assistance.

The hours offenders put into this program benefit the agencies and teach offenders how to be caring and compassionate towards others. They learn to put other's needs above their own.

The materials are purchased with proceeds earned from the Restorative Justice Organization fundraisers throughout the year. The best seller is the Banquet fried chicken. Over the past two years, the organization has purchased garden tillers, embroidery machines, sewing machines, and quality irons. A few years back, several other offender organizations went together and donated funds to help RJ purchase a quilting machine.

Donations are also accepted from the public (no cash). If you or someone you know would like to donate material or yarn, you may contact the RJ coordinator at WERDCC at the following address:

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OFFICE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Local MRP Groups... Helping to Make it Happen

The Probation and Parole Districts 9 (Joplin) and 33 (Neosho) are involved in a local MRP group, Southwest Missouri Reentry (www.swmoreentry.com), that is striving to make a difference in their communities.

One of this group's accomplishments has been providing assistance in getting the Circles Initiative started in their area. The mission of that Initiative is to empower people from every economic class to solve poverty in their communities through individual transformation and community change. The goals of the Circles Initiative are to assist families out of poverty, to document the steps taken to help these families out of poverty, and to help local leaders develop and implement plans to assure hardworking families in their communities can thrive. Some individuals under field supervision meet the criteria for the program and are given assistance through the Initiative and the community so that they can take steps towards becoming financially independent.

Another accomplishment of this local MRP group is the distribution of backpacks/sacks with hygiene products for individuals being released from an institution. These packages have been very well received by offenders. This resource seems to give them a positive start with their supervising officer.

The local MRP group's goal for the future is to hold a Reentry Simulation for local agencies and the public in order to assist them in understanding the barriers faced by offenders.

For more information, contact Teddy Steen, ASCENT Recovery Residences, (417)540-6313.



Did you know?

The Missouri Department of Corrections is responsible for over 100,000 persons 31,000 in state correctional facilities and another 70,000 on probation or parole.

If all 101,000 resided in the same place—the DOC would be the state's fifth largest city. But those incarcerated come from every county and every corner of our state.

97% will leave prison and will return to our communities.

Returning can be difficult. There are challenges:

- Finding a job, housing or transportation
- Reestablishing family relationships
- Staying out of trouble

Offenders return to our communities—over 18,000 annually. These offenders have served their time, but what happens next?

Missouri communities can and need to help offenders rejoin the community and avoid returning to prison. It makes sense: less crime, productive adults, reunited families and lower costs to the taxpayers. Prison is expensive. The need is real. The reasons make sense. We know what it takes.

Our objective is clear: improve the overall transition process of offenders leaving prison and returning to Missouri communities.

Success in their effort requires everyone in the community.

Learn more. Get involved. Help out.

57% of offenders with serious mental health problems return to prison within 5 years of release.

97% of incarcerated offenders will one day be released.

48% of offenders who leave prison WITHOUT a GED or high school diploma return within 2 years.

Only 37% of offenders who obtain a GED in prison return to prison within 2 years.

In 2002, Missouri was one of the first states chosen by the National Institute of Corrections to adopt the Transition from Prison to Community Model.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The VA is a federal agency and is separate from the Missouri Veterans Commission. The VA administers a variety of benefits and services that provide financial and other forms of assistance to Service members, Veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Despite the circumstances, some justice-involved Veterans may be eligible for VA benefits. Several VA representatives work with Missouri's incarcerated Veterans. Assistance in applying for VA medical, mental health, substance abuse benefits and vocational services will be provided by the VA as transitional release services. More information about the VA's reentry efforts can be located at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asp>.

“Tell me I forget. Teach me I remember. Involve me and I learn. ”

~ Benjamin Franklin~